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THE OBSERVATOR.

The Examiner's *Eſſay upon the Art of Political Lying, which he charges on the Whigs, conſider'd and retorted.*

From Wedneſday, November 8. to Saturday, November 11. 1710.

Countrym. THE *Examiner* is nobly imploy'd now, Maſter, in writing *An Eſſay upon the Art of Political Lying*. He has already oblig'd us with an important Diſcovery, *viz.* that the Invention is as old as the Devil. This he tells us, in his laſt Paper, which is *Numb.* 15. I think he has ſtudy'd very hard to find that out in fifteen Weeks, Maſter, which would have coſt a Man of a leſs fruitful Invention fifteen Years at leaſt.

Obſ. You ſee the Advantage of being a High-Churchman, *Roger*; that Party has ingroſs'd the Monopoly of Women, Wit and Wine to themſelves, and won't allow the leaſt Bit or Drop to any body elſe.

Countrym. Yet he owns himſelf to be at a Loſs, Maſter; for after all his diligent Enquiries, he can't find out, *who it was that firſt reduc'd Lying into an Art, and adapted it to Politicks.* Can you give him no Aſſiſtance? You know that 'tis Charity to help a lame Dog over a Stile.

Obſ. I own it, *Roger*, and therefore out of kindneſs to the *Examiner*, I will lend him a helping hand at a dead lift, and give a *Spiritual Shove to ſuch a heavy-ars'd Sinner*. You ſee, *Roger*, that in the third Column of the ſame Paper, towards the top, he ſays, 'That 'tis one eſſential Point where-'in a Political Liar differs from others of the Fa-'culty, that he ought to have but a ſhort Memo-'ry, which is neceſſary, according to the various 'occaſions he meets with every hour, of differing 'from himſelf, and ſwearing to both ſides of a 'Contradiction.' Now, *Roger*, becauſe I love to do Juſtice to every Man's Character, I will let you ſee as plain as a Pike-Staff, that the *Examiner* has this eſſential Qualification of a Political Liar.

Countrym. That will be a very material piece of Service to himſelf and his Party, Maſter. Pray how do you make it out?

Obſ. With very great eaſe, *Roger*. This cautious and acute Author ſays, towards the beginning of his firſt Column, *Numb.* 15. 'We are 'told the Devil was the Father of Lies, and a 'Liar from the beginning; and which is more, '*his firſt Eſſay of it was purely Political*, em-'ploy'd in undermining the Authority of his 'Prince, and ſeducing the third part of the Sub-'jects from their Obedience.' Now, *Roger*, I don't ſuppoſe it was an hour betwixt his writing the beginning of the firſt Column, and the beginning of the third; and yet you ſee his Memory is ſo ſhort, that in this very ſmall ſpace of time, he both knows who was the firſt that reduc'd Lying into an Art, and adapted it to Politicks, and knows not one word of the matter, tho he has made ſome diligent Enquiries to find it out.

Countrym. In truth, Maſter, the *Examiner* is oblig'd to you. You have fully prov'd, by his own Touchſtone, that no Man can have a better Title than himſelf, to ſet up as a Political Liar of the firſt Rank; and that he is duly qualify'd to exerciſe his Talent among other fallen Spirits, or poor deluded Men, whom he daily tempts to his own Sin.

Obſ. You know there's a Proverb, *Roger*, *That the Devil ought to have his Due*, which tho it be coarſe, has a good Moral; yet the *Examiner* is ſuch a very Rapparee and a Tory, that he robs Hell it ſelf. He ſays, in his ſecond and third Paragraphs, 'That tho the Devil be the Father of 'Lies, he ſeems, like other great Inventors, to 'have loſt much of his Reputation, by the conti-'nual Improvements that have been made upon 'him, the Art has been ſo much cultivated theſe 'twenty years paſt in the Southern Part of our 'Iſland.' Now, *Roger*, I think 'tis plain, that by ſaying ſo he has rob'd the Devil of his Due; for our Saviour, who was Truth it ſelf, has told us, *John* 8. 44. that Lies are the Devil's own, and that human Liars don't rob him, but only ſhare with him, as Sons do with a Father, in ſuch Parts of an Eſtate as they derive from him by Hereditary Right with his own Conſent; for he is the Original Liar, and all the Improvements are his own, as well as thoſe who make uſe of them, for which at laſt they ſhall have their Reward together.

Countrym. Ay but, Maſter, the *Examiner* meant, I ſuppoſe, that he could not find who was the firſt Man that reduc'd Lying to an Art, and adapted it to Politicks.

Obſ. Allow that he meant ſo, *Roger*, it won't excuſe his Ignorance: Had he been as well vers'd in the Scriptures, as he is in the Poets, or paid the former an equal regard with the latter, he might ſoon have found that *Cain*, the Patriarch of the bloody High Church, was the firſt who apply'd the Art of Lying to cover his Political, but falſe Pretences to Religion, and his barbarous Perſecution, when he ſaid to God himſelf, that he knew not where his Brother was, tho he had murder'd him; yet this Improvement of the Art of Lying, and Application of it to Politicks, is aſcrib'd to the Devil himſelf by the Apoſtle, who ſays, *Cain* was of that wicked one, and only follow'd the Example of his Father, who was a Liar, and a Murderer, as well as a Perſecutor, from the beginning.

Countrym. You put ſo many Obligations upon the *Examiner*, Maſter, that I know not how he will be able to requite you.

Obſ. I han't done yet, *Roger*, for I love to be generous, and therefore will inform the *Examiner* further, that the principal Inſtruments, whom the Devil has made uſe of in all Ages to propagate and improve the Art of Political Lies, were falſe Prophets, Highflying Prieſts, and ſuch Tories as reſign'd themſelves to their Conduct. I could give many Inſtances of this, *Roger*, but ſhall ſatisfy my ſelf with that of the Tyrant *Ahab*, and his Tory Queen *Jezebel*, of a foreign and idolatrous Extract; they were prompted by their Highflying Prieſts and falſe Prophets to cut off all the Prophets of the Lord they could find, under a pretence that they were Low-Churchmen, or Diſ-

ſenters from the Religion of the Court, Men of Antimonarchical and Republican Principles, that troubled the Peace of *Iſrael*, becauſe they did not love their High Churches or Places, nor *Baal*'s Cathedral at *Samaria*, where the Highflying Prieſts cut Capers upon the Altars, and perform'd their Worſhip with pompous, but bloody Ceremonies.

Countrym. I remember the thing very well, Maſter, and that thoſe Highflying Prieſts were mighty Favourites at Court, no leſs than four hundred of 'em were fed at *Jezebel*'s Table; for thoſe Fellows always love to eat and drink luſtily as well as Dr. *S.* but I think the old Whig Metropolitan or Prophet *Elijah* told *Ahab* to his face, that it was not he and the Low-Church who troubled *Iſrael*, but the King himſelf and his Father's Houſe, who had forſaken the Commandments of the Lord, and follow'd *Baalim*.

Obſ. You are in the right, honeſt *Roger*; but why do ye call *Elijah* a Whig?

Countrym. Becauſe he was ſo far, Maſter, from owning *Ahab*'s Arbitrary and Uncontrolable Power, or aſſerting that the Subjects ow'd him Unlimited Paſſive Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance, that he told him to his face, that he and his Tory Wife *Jezebel* ſhou'd both be call'd to an account, for murdering the Whig *Naboth*, and robbing him of his Life and Vineyard by a ſhadow of Law, in raiſing a falſe Indictment of Treaſon, and ſuborning Witneſſes to ſwear it againſt him.

Obſ. You have prov'd *Elijah* to be a Whig very well, *Roger*; but how do you prove that *Jezebel* and her High-Church Party were Tories?

Countrym. Very eaſily, Maſter; for when the Whig *Naboth* ſtood in defence of his Property, and would not ſubmit to the King's arbitrary Commands, ſhe ſpoke to her Husband in the very Language of a Tory, *Doſt thou now govern the Kingdom of* Iſrael? ſays ſhe; *i. e.* Will you ſuffer a Whig to diſpute your Prerogative? Then ſhe contriv'd the Maſſacre of *Naboth*, by making uſe of the King's Seal, as 'twas alledg'd ſomebody elſe did to the Popiſh Cut-throats in *Ireland* within the Memory of Man: Then ſhe ſet up ſuch Evidence againſt *Naboth* as the *Denis*'s and *Macnamara*'s; her Teagues ſwore him out of his Life, and her Tory Lieutenancy and Juſtices of Peace took care that the Tryal ſhou'd be manag'd ſo as to humour the Court, and thus the poor Whig *Naboth* fell a Sacrifice to Arbitrary Power.

Obſ. That's very true, *Roger*, but you know what came on't: The Devil made the High-Church Prieſts and Prophets the Organs to pronounce his Lyes. They perſuaded *Ahab* that he ſhould certainly be victorious, now that he had intirely ſubmitted himſelf to their Conduct; for he was half a Whig before, and ſuffer'd *Elijah* to do juſtice on the High-Church Prieſts that had deluded the Nation: but he fell, notwithſtanding all their flattering Aſſurances, by the hand of the *Syrians* at *Ramoth-Gilead*, with whom his Tory Counſellors had perſuaded him a little before to make a diſhonourable Peace, after he had defeated their haughty Tyrant *Benhadad* in ſeveral great Battels. And you know the Tory *Jezebel*'s Fate, *Roger*; ſhe fell by the hands of Juſtice, and had leſs warning to provide for her Exit than ſhe gave to poor *Naboth*.

Countrym. Well, Maſter, I think we have given the *Examiner* very good helps towards his Eſſay on the Art of Political Lying, and have told him where he may have more if he wants, for the Father of Lyes will never baulk thoſe who make application to him: But what do you reply to his Charge upon the Whigs, Maſter; for he ſays 'tis they who have corrupted our Morals, and have improv'd the Art of Lying ſo theſe twenty years, as to ſwear to both Sides of a Contradiction?

Obſ. I perceive twenty years paſt and the Revolution is a mighty Period with him, *Roger*; 'tis from that time he deduces all our Calamities: but if he won't take it amiſs, I wou'd adviſe him to go to 1660. which is but twenty eight years more up the hill, or thereabouts; and I am miſtaken if he don't find that Corruption of Morals came in upon us then like a Flood, and broke down all our Sluices. The Tories began about 1659. to ſwear to one Side of a Contradiction, when they abjur'd *Charles Stuart* and the Houſe of Lords, tho at the ſame time they were plotting with General *Monk* to bring him in: About 1660 and 1661, they ſwore to the other Side of it; which was, that he had a Divine, Indefeaſible, Hereditary, Lineal Right, and that it was not lawful to reſiſt him, or thoſe that had his Commiſſion, on any pretence whatever. In 1688. they took their Word again, when ABp *Sancroft* their Patriarch, and the *Examiner*'s other true Lovers of their Country and Conſtitution in Church and State, invited over the Prince of *Orange*, and attended him in his Expedition, till, as the Church ſays in her Office for the Fifth of *November*, he deliver'd us from Popiſh Tyranny and Arbitrary Power, overcame all Oppoſition, and became our King and Governor. Then they ſwore to him, and the Succeſſion as ſettled by the Bill of Rights: They afterwards ſwore to the *Hanover* Succeſſion, and abjur'd the Pretender; which was one Side more of a Contradiction: And now they ſeem to be as ready to ſwear to the other, by reaſſerting Unlimited Paſſive Obedience and Hereditary Right. Theſe are Matters of Fact, *Roger*, that can't be deny'd; ſo that the *Examiner* ſhould have taken the Beam out of the Eye of his own Party, before he had ſpy'd a Mote in that of the Whigs. Beſides, *Roger*, I would have him to ſhew if he can where any Whig Preacher or Author has reduc'd the Art of Political Lying and Perjury into a Syſtem, as Sir *Robert Filmer* their High-Church Champion has done, in the Paſſages we quoted laſt day from his *Patriarcha and Power of Kings*; and as the late Biſhop of *Cheſter* did, in his Sermon at *Rippon* in 168⅝. where they ſay the Prince may diſannul the Law at pleaſure for Cauſes known only to himſelf, *notwithſtanding his Oath*; and that Subjects may break thro the Law, to uphold the Crown on the right Head that ought to wear it. I am miſtaken if he can find any ſuch Doctrine advanc'd by Whigs; for this teaches People to lye and forſwear themſelves by Authority, a piece of Morality much fitter for the Jeſuits than for thoſe who pretend to be of the Church of *England*. But enough of this at preſent, *Roger*; we may talk further with the *Examiner* at another opportunity. In the mean time, I ſhould be glad to ſee what Anſwer he can give to theſe things, or to the Lyes charg'd upon his own Party, in a late Piece, call'd, *Faults in the Faultfinder*.

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